Statement-I

Value of mineral Production in the country
Production of Minerals 1999-2000 to 2001-2002

(value in Rs.'000)

Minerals	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002(P)
All Minerals	52306.61	58772.86	59509.28
Fuel Minerals	42676.17	478943.63	48547.56
Metallic Minerals	3550.47	3737.34	3806.21
Non-met. Minerals	1853.49	2034.78	1998.40
Minor Minerals	4226.48	5157.11	5157.11(R)

(P) Provisional and based on monthly returns to the extent available with IBM.

(R) Previous years figures repeated as current data have not been received yet.

Statement-II

Index of Mineral Production
(BASE: 1993-94=100)

Mineral Group	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002(P)	2002-2003 (P) (April-Dec., 2002)
All Minerals	127.47	131.08	132.39	136.05
Fuel Minerals	127.01	130.25	131.66	133.91
Metallic Minerals	121.86	130.62	132.15	149.88
Non-metallic Minerals	138.56	143.00	142.45	149.60

P: Provisional Based on average of monthly data.

Coal deposites found by GSI

2241. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has found large coal deposits in the Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any strategy for exploration of these deposits in near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The regional exploration carried out by Geological Survey of India (GSI) in Vidharba Region, has established 566 million tonnes of coal in Bhatali, Rajura-Manikgarh, Bahmini-Palasgaon and Jogapur-Sirsi area of Wardha Valley, Chandrapur District, Maharashtra.

(c) to (e) During the Tenth Plan the Sub Group-II of the Working Group on Coal and Lignite has worked out a programme for regional, promotional and detailed exploration in coalfields of Maharashtra. The programme envisages exploratory drilling of 60,000 meter for regional exploration and 1,01,800 meter of drilling for detailed exploration. Reserves of about 1248 million tonnes of coal in the proved category are likely to be established.

Acceleration of reforms in mining sector

†2242. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) steps Government are going to take to accelerate the reform process in the mining sector;

(b) whether the Government have incorporated aspects like scientific methods related to the mining sector, protection of the environment and implementing the programmes related to education, creation of jobs, health and environmental reforms for the people living in the adjoining areas of mines, on priority in the said programmes of reform-process; and

(c) if so, the details therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.